

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 1874, February 19, 1955



Young angler with a problem

This young angler left his bait at home when he went fishing at Hastings. He need not have worried; conditions were bad and even the old hands who had remembered their bait were not very successful.

DRILLING TO MUSIC

Two dentists at Iowa University, U.S., have hit upon a way to help their patients relax. Before using a drill, they switch on a gramophone and play a record of the patient's favourite music.

Most patients so far have favoured classical music. They say they felt much less apprehensive of the drill after listening to Mozart, Handel, Bach, and Beethoven.

BUMPER HARVEST

The State Highway Department of Ohio is having the front bumpers of all police and traffic police cars magnetised in order to pick up nails. In a ten-mile test run two cars picked up 8 lb. of nails in this way, and another picked up 3 lb. of sharp steel and iron fragments.

ROMANS WHO STAYED ON

Historians have generally agreed that the Roman occupation of Britain ended about A.D. 411. But a study of fifth-century Roman coins by Dr. J. P. C. Kent of the British Museum, suggests that some Romans remained after the legions had been withdrawn.

A coin of the Emperor Arcadius, originally found at Heddon-on-the-Wall, Northumberland, suggests that Romans were still occupying Hadrian's Wall 15 years after the time when they were believed to have left it.

A coin of the same period found in one of the Cheddar caves, leads Dr. Kent to believe that Romans were living on quite comfortably in the district early in the fifth century. Another coin found near Rochester was minted between 423 and 431.

POLITENESS PAYS

A man walked into an auction at Bury St. Edmunds and raised his hat to a friend. Mistaking the greeting for a bid, the auctioneer knocked down a lawn-mower for ten shillings to the man with the hat in his hand.

Although it was a mistake the polite man was quite satisfied. He had got a lawn-mower for ten shillings.

HAPPY LANDING

Many birds have a homing instinct, but only coincidence led to an exhausted swan making an emergency landing in a certain joiner's yard at Bolton, Lancashire. The yard belongs to Cygnet Joinery Ltd., in Higher Swan Lane.

SAD CASE

A West Riding schoolteacher received the following note from a parent:

"Sorry Johnny is away from school with his head. He has had it off and on all the weekend."

OFF TO MAKALU

French attempt to conquer the fifth highest mountain in the world

EVEREST has been climbed, but some of its mighty neighbours still offer a challenge to man's skill and pluck and endurance. Among them is Makalu, the world's fifth highest mountain, which is the objective of a French expedition due to set out for the Nepal Himalayas next month.

Makalu lies approximately eight miles to the south-east of Mount Everest. Rising 27,790 feet from the Barun Glacier, the peak forms one of the most impressive sights in the whole of the Himalayas: great black ridges torn with long gullies and bounded by steep precipices, culminating in a peculiarly light coloured granite summit.

Despite its prominence, Makalu has been neglected by climbers, though expeditions intent on finding a practical route up Everest have passed close to the mountain.

In 1921, for example, a party led by Mallory found themselves on the Kangshung Glacier, on the north side of Makalu; and in 1951, Eric Shipton, in the survey which was to discover the key to Everest, made a traverse of the Barun Glacier.

Both parties, however, were too preoccupied with their more immediate task to give Makalu more than a casual examination.

PRACTICAL ROUTE

The challenge of Makalu could not go unresisted for ever. Even during the successful Everest expedition of 1953, Wilfred Noyce noted that Hillary was attracted to Makalu, and that he had even made a long-range "trace" of a practical route to the summit. Later on, Sir Edmund Hillary requested permission from the Nepalese Government to attempt the mountain in 1956.

The first real attempt on Makalu was made last year by an American expedition sponsored by the University of California and led by Dr. W. E. Siri. The climbers reached 23,000 feet, but were

driven back by a wave of violent avalanches. Roaring down almost perpendicular slopes, these avalanches forced the men to dig desperately for shelter in the packed snow.

But although this American expedition failed to reach the summit it was highly successful from a scientific point of view. A thousand specimens of plant and insect life were collected, together with valuable information on how they survived on Makalu's icy, wind-swept slopes.

SPIDERS IN THE SNOW

Dr. Lawrence Swan, the expedition's biological expert, said their discovery of tiny insects living beneath rocks had solved the 30-year-old mystery of how a spider called the *Attila* finds food to survive at high Himalayan altitudes.

Dr. Siri said later that there was the possibility of another American expedition, also in 1956.

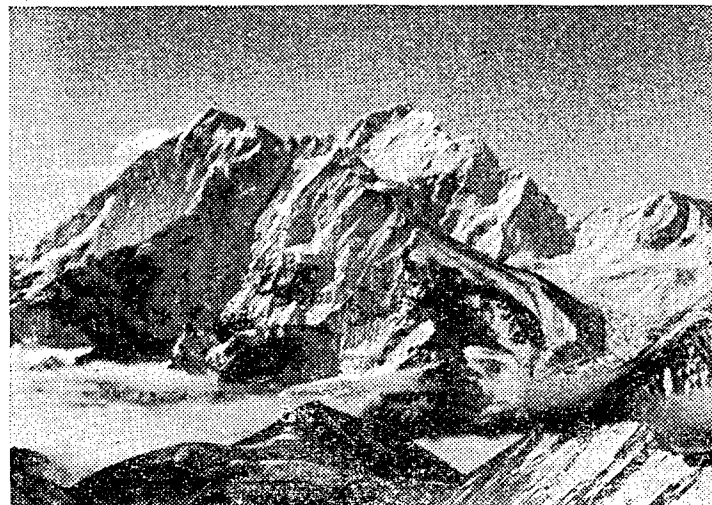
Recently, however, the French Alpine Club and the French Federation of Mountaineers surprised many climbers with the news that a French expedition had just returned from a post-monsoon survey of the region around Makalu.

This expedition was led by Jean Franco, and, although its purpose was one of exploration, it succeeded in climbing Makalu II; an adjacent peak, 25,130 feet high.

The party made an extensive study of every section of Makalu, and finally decided that a possible route lay up the north face.

Nepal having given permission, the French wasted no time in deciding to press forward with a full-

Continued on page 2



Mount Makalu (right) and Mount Chomolongo



Moved to new address

Moving-day in America sometimes means shifting the whole house. This picture from Chicago shows a timber building, jacked up on wheels, being hauled by two trucks to a new site.

INDIA GAINS A TROPICAL PARIS

FOLLOWING the Franco-Indian agreement made last October 21, the Indian flag now flies over Pondicherry, Karikal, Mahé, and Yanam. Pondicherry, capital of these four last French settlements remaining in India, is busy now with the final stages of the hand-over.

Premier Nehru recently visited the delightful little seaport and Frenchmen joined with their Indian neighbours in giving him a great welcome, for their culture and institutions have been safeguarded and they all have free choice of nationality and language.

Pondicherry consists of 115 square miles of territory, including the main town and several adjacent villages. As a French colonial seaport it flourished for nearly 300 years and today has a population of about 222,000. Like all French colonial capitals, it was made a "tropical Paris," with fine buildings set in wide and handsome tree-lined boulevards, with bright cafés and sparkling life in the French residential quarter, which faces the sea, divided from the Indian town by an ancient canal.

Many of the retiring French officials, whose pensions have been assured, will certainly stay on in the charming city where their lives have been spent so happily. French business men will not wish to leave their flourishing offices and

spacious bungalows. And India will be glad to keep them. For in the negotiations which ended in the handing over of the settlements there has been no bitterness. Common sense and peace prevailed.

Frenchmen will help India to make Pondicherry worthy in the coming years of its bold and colourful history. First founded by France in 1673, it was repeatedly attacked and several times captured by Dutch and British colonial rivals during the next 140 years. But it was always returned, and little harm came to its gracious buildings and stout old harbour.

Joseph Francois Dupleix, the great Governor-General of the French Indies, made Pondicherry a key point in the mighty French India he hoped to found on the ruins of the Mogul Empire. It took Clive, a man of genius like his own, to beat him. Then an ungrateful King, Louis XV, forgot Dupleix, and left him to starve.

But Pondicherry has never forgotten him.

Off to Makalu

Continued from page 1

scale attempt this Spring. Already the Sherpas have been booked, and they will include Pa Norbu, a porter who has taken part in many expeditions, including the first ascent of Nun (23,410 feet) in 1952.

The climbers will take with them clothing and tents which have been specially designed to withstand the severe, cold winds.

Oxygen will be used at the higher altitudes; a special 13½ lb. apparatus which gives a six-hour supply has been tested and proved successful.

The leader of the expedition will again be Jean Franco. He expects to spend six weeks in the attempt to scale the mountain, and if all goes well, to stand upon the summit of Makalu in the second week of May.

Fault-finder



Here a railwayman is using one of the recently-introduced ultrasonic detectors to find invisible flaws in the rails. The probe at the end of the rod is connected with the battery in his knapsack, and gives an audible or visual signal if it passes over a defect.

FOCUS ON SELECT COMMITTEES

By the CN Parliamentary Correspondent

SELECT Committees and their work are cropping up so often in the Parliamentary news that we might briefly examine what they are and what they do.

They are set up by either House, or by the Lords and Commons together, to inquire into and report to the House on "special matters." They also consider Bills. Their members are, of course, peers or M.P.s.

The Commons are more concerned with Select Committee practice because of the many money matters they have to analyse. For these tasks the experts in particular subjects, plus inquiring "laymen," are chosen.

LITTLE PARLIAMENT

Nowadays, members of Select Committees are nominated by the whips of the three parties—Conservative, Labour, and Liberal. But as a Select Committee is a kind of "little Parliament," care is taken to ensure that it reflects the strength of the parties in the Commons.

There are 622 M.P.s, excluding the Speaker and his two deputies. The Government works on an overall majority of 17 to 18.

When the total of M.P.s is divided by this majority the result is roughly 36—the average size of a Select Committee—with a Government majority of one.

Fifteen is the maximum number of members under the rules, but this can be—and usually is—increased to the required number by the Commons itself.

UNDER OATH

Select Committees have the power to send for witnesses. These are chiefly high Civil Servants from the Whitehall departments whose operations are under review. Witnesses take the oath, as in a court of law, and anyone wilfully giving false evidence is liable to punishment for perjury.

The history of these committees goes back to the early days of Parliament, when it was the custom for groups of members to meet, almost casually, to explore the workings of Parliament in order to get reforms.

Their modern counterpart, although bound by rules, are independent both of the Government or of political parties, and their findings are published without fear or favour.

MOTORING BY RAIL

British Railways will be running a new Motorists' Special to Scotland this summer. Overnight trains carrying 20 cars and their passengers will leave King's Cross twice weekly for Perth. Return fares will be £15 for the car and driver and £4 10s. for each of the passengers.

The service will enable tourists to avoid the fatigue of driving on crowded roads on a 400-mile journey, and give them an extra day or two to see the great sights of Scotland.

News from Everywhere

ATOMIC CAR

A motor car powered by atomic energy has been designed by Soviet scientists.

Rome's first underground railway has been completed. Seven miles long, it cost £7,000,000.

A new oil well at Plungar, Leicestershire, is expected to produce about five tons a day.

Yugoslavia is planning a television service.

LUXURY COACHES

Air-conditioned motor coaches with snack bars will soon be available for tourists in South Africa.

The canals in Venice are being drained in order to clear them of mud and rubbish, and to inspect canal-side house foundations.

M. Herriot, the 82-year-old former French Prime Minister, is to be allowed to send free telegrams whenever he wishes.

Penny fares for old age pensioners are to be introduced in Glasgow.

TEA-SAVER

A new type of teapot which saves one spoonful of tea in three was exhibited at Harrogate recently. It was invented by Dr. Tutin, the hydro-dynamics expert who designed the rudders of the Queen Elizabeth and Queen Mary.

An attempt on the world rail speed record is to be made with a new French electric locomotive. France holds the present record of 152 m.p.h.

PUMICE STONE SCHOOL

School classrooms in Nairobi are to be built with blocks of pre-cast pumice.

Books of stamps illustrating events associated with the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. George, Southwark, are being sold to aid the reconstruction fund.

A park shelter for old people at Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, will be equipped with a radio.

The names of trees and flowers will be marked in Braille in a new park for children and blind people at Johannesburg.

EARLY WELSH CHRISTIANS

A three-inch oil lamp unearthed at Caerleon, Monmouthshire, provides the earliest evidence yet found that Christianity existed in Wales during the Roman era. On the base of the lamp is a secret symbol used by early Christians.

On Sunday, February 20, Sir Alexander Grantham, Governor of Hong Kong, is to unveil a memorial at Saiwan Bay to commemorate the 2056 men of the Commonwealth land forces who died in the defence of Hong Kong or later in captivity and have no known grave.



As children grow they are using up valuable reserves of strength. That's why it's important to see they take Haliborange. They need the extra 'protective' vitamins A, C and D. Start the family on delicious Haliborange now and keep them all happy, healthy and strong throughout the Winter.



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Where Huguenots made cloth

During alterations to an old house in Best Lane, Canterbury, which had been taken over by the famous Cathedral Weaving Centre, parts of old looms and spinning wheels were found. The discoveries prove that the house was one of the weaving establishments set up centuries ago by Huguenot and Walloon refugees.

WITH THE RED CROSS IN MALAYA

Although she drove 60,000 miles through Malaya and was unarmed, Nurse Irene Mitchell's car with the red cross painted on it was never once shot at by bandits.

Miss Mitchell recently returned to Britain after working for two and a half years with a Red Cross team. Once she and a fellow nurse were driving along a jungle road when they came upon several wounded bandits who had been shot while on the run. All were given first aid.

What she found far more frightening than the bandits was the nine-foot cobra she once encountered in the garden of a house at which she was calling.

In March Miss Mitchell is off to North Borneo for two years.

LUCKY SNEEZE

When a man living near Innsbruck, Austria, sneezed at his work recently, he dislodged a hand-grenade splinter which had been embedded in his skull since 1942.

Doctors and surgeons had tried vainly to remove it.

FEBRUARY FREEZE

Just a century ago, throughout February 1855, Britain experienced one of the greatest frosts in history. It started in the middle of January and went on all through the following month.

Perhaps it was the memory of this that gave a former generation a strong conviction that winters were not so severe as they had been. Large masses of snow and ice floated down the Thames and in being ground together by the tide made a noise that could be heard for a considerable distance.

There were many small icebergs in the river, and at Richmond the ice was continuous for almost three miles. On the frozen Serpentine one evening 1000 torch-bearers marched with a brass band and there was dancing by hundreds of skaters. Fires were lighted on the ice, and tents erected.

Elsewhere, the lakes of Windermere and Derwentwater were frozen over so that carts and wagons could cross in safety. It was even possible for traffic to make the 35-mile journey from Boston to Lincoln on the ice.

Small Girl



This figure by S. C. Harpley is on view at the Royal College of Arts Exhibition, in London's Victoria and Albert Museum, until February 20.

CAT GAVE THE ALARM

A cat which brushed against the face of its mistress and finally woke her up saved the lives of an elderly couple in Wellington, New Zealand, when their house caught fire. They were able to escape from the window of their home, which was razed to the ground.

MISSING FINGER RETURNED

The famous suit of armour which once belonged to the Black Prince and has hung for many generations in Canterbury Cathedral is complete once more, thanks to the generosity of the Liverpool City Museum. For more than two centuries a finger has been missing from one of the Prince's gauntlets, or steel fighting gloves.

It was in 1867 that the missing finger was presented to the Liverpool Museum by a Mr. Joseph Mayer, who had previously obtained it from the grandson of a well-known Kent antiquary, the Rev. Bryan Faussett. How he obtained the finger is not known, but it had probably passed through many different hands since the time when it was stolen from Canterbury in the 17th or 18th century. People had no conscience about antiquities in those days.

STEVENSON MUSEUM FOR SAMOA

In a recent issue of the Samoa Bulletin the editor makes an appeal for the establishment of a Robert Louis Stevenson museum in Western Samoa, the group of Pacific islands belonging to New Zealand.

Memories of Stevenson still linger on among the Samoans even 60 years after his death. Much of his furniture and personal belongings are still to be seen by the visitors at Vailima, the house which he built near Apia, the chief town on the island of Upolu. To the islanders he was affectionately known as Tusitala, "the teller of stories."

There could be no better place for a museum of Stevenson's relics than among the people on whom he bestowed so much of his affection and whose cause he championed against the, then, German occupiers.

WILLINGLY TO SCHOOL

Miss Ethel Barling, who has died at Ashford, Kent, never ceased to serve the school where she started as a five-year-old pupil 67 years ago. At the age of 14 she became a pupil-teacher and in 1903 she was officially appointed to the staff. She continued at work there until her last illness.

During those long years of loving service Miss Barling had taught whole families, and some of her more recent pupils were actually the grandchildren of members of her early classes.

STOPPING THE JET PLANE

A simple but highly effective device to stop runaway jet planes whose landing brakes have failed will soon be seen on United States Air Force bases in this country.

The barriers consist of long nylon webs—not unlike tennis nets—attached to which are a cable and two long anchor chains.

As the plane careers down the runway its undercarriage engages the nylon and then the cable. The cable drags the anchor chains, and the combination of weight and friction stops the jet within 400 to 500 feet.



Back at his old school

Wilfred Pickles went back to a seat in his old classroom at Warley Council School near Halifax when he celebrated the 250th performance of Have a Go.

THE HOUSE OF TENZING

Sherpa Tenzing can now move into the house which his countrymen have built for him at Darjeeling as a tribute to his feat in climbing Mount Everest.

The house has three storeys, with balconies on each floor commanding wonderful views of the Himalayas.

Tenzing insisted on painting the outer walls himself and the general effect is brilliant. "Green for water, blue for sky, yellow for earth, white for clouds, and red for fire," he says, and the result is one of the gayest houses in Darjeeling.

Tenzing has retired from major mountaineering expeditions and is now an instructor in India's first Institute of Mountaineering.

LITTLE WELSH RAILWAY TO RE-OPEN

The Festiniog narrow-gauge railway, closed eight years ago, is likely to be re-opened in the summer. The Festiniog Railway Society, which owns the track, has been sending out groups of volunteer enthusiasts every month to work on the track. Now six of the locomotives and most of the rolling stock are to be repaired and put into use again.

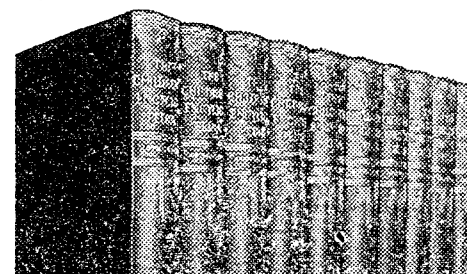
Running between the slate quarries at Blaenau Festiniog, and Portmadoc on the coast, this line was opened in 1836. Trucks used to run the 13 miles from Festiniog to the sea and were pulled back by horses, but in 1869 they were replaced by steam engines.

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C.N.5



All among the prizes

These London teachers are concentrating on what is a pleasant job: selecting prizes at the L.C.C. School Equipment Depot, which is visited by teachers from 1400 schools and has a store of gifts worth £30,000.

IT HAPPENED THIS WEEK

MICHAEL ANGELO DEAD

FEBRUARY 18, 1564. FLOR-
ENCE—The great artist, sculptor,
and engineer, Michael Angelo
Buonarroti—famous throughout
the world for his magnificent sculp-
tures and paintings—died early to-
day on the threshold of
his 90th year.

Most famous of the
work done by
this superbly
gifted and
energetic
native of Tus-
cany, are
perhaps his painting of the Vatican
Sistine Chapel in Rome and a
colossal statue of David, carved in
Florence from a giant slab of
marble. His supreme triumph as
an architect was the planning and
building of the dome of St. Peter's,
Rome, the biggest church in the
world.

But throughout the whole of the
Italian peninsula are beautiful
works of his commissioned by
Popes, Kings, and Princes.

As a gifted, headstrong youth he
braved his father's opposition and
entered the studio of Ghirlandaio,
then the foremost painter in
Florence, and trained to be a
sculptor under the patronage of the
rich and powerful Lorenzo de
Medici.



Pope Julius summoned him later
to Rome, and there he began work
in the Sistine Chapel, but quar-
relling with the Pope over pay-
ment for this work, Michael
Angelo returned to Florence in
April 1506.

Recommencing work on the
Sistine Chapel in 1508, Michael
Angelo, after dismissing his as-
sistants as unsatisfactory, spent
four years alone on his colossal
task.

He showed talent too as a poet
and also as an engineer. When
Florence was threatened with siege,
he was appointed engineer-in-chief
of the fortifications.

MEMORIAL TO THE
PRINCE CONSORT

FEBRUARY 19, 1862. LON-
DON—Queen Victoria has made
her decision on the form of the
memorial to be erected to the late
Prince Consort.

In a letter to the Memorial Fund
she says that "nothing would be
more appropriate, provided it is on
a scale of sufficient grandeur, than
an obelisk to be erected in Hyde-
park on the site of the Great
Exhibition of 1851" or on some
spot nearby.

(The resulting monument cost
£100,000, took 20 years to build,
with 860 arches, 800 feet of granite
columns, and a wealth of marble
statuary.)

RADIO
AND TV

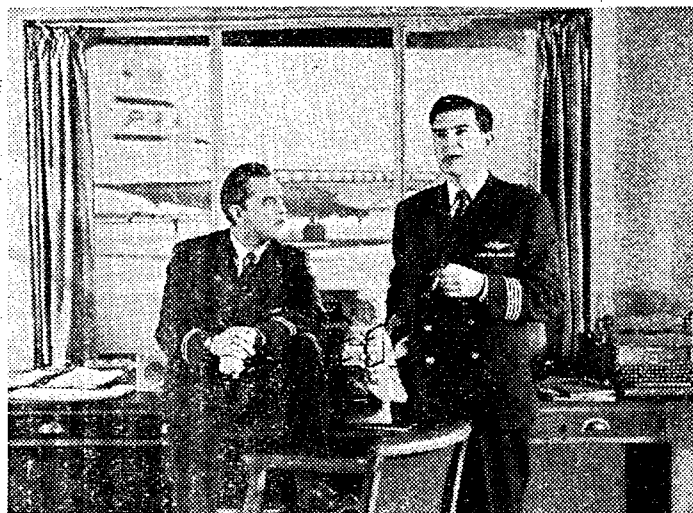
SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

Seeing the London Airport of two years' time

OUT of the Clouds, the Ealing
studios film which recently
had its London premiere, tells the
story of London Airport as it will
be in two years' time, the largest
in the world.

How was it possible to do this
in advance before the main build-
ings and control tower were com-
plete? You can learn all about it
in Children's Hour Saturday Ex-

Out of the Clouds has a love
story, of course, with Robert
Beatty as Chief B.O.A.C. Duty
Officer falling in love with an air
stewardess, Eunice Gayson; but
in the course of this and other
romances, cinemagoers see the
airport of the future in full opera-
tion: the control tower interior,
the inside of the latest airliners in
flight, complex radar equipment in



Terence Alexander and Robert Beatty in a scene from Out of the Clouds

cursion on February 19 when John
Lane and Margaret Hubble go be-
hind the scenes of one of the most
ingenious film stunts ever achieved.

Jim Morahan, the film's art
director, given blue prints of the
whole project, made a scale model
which was so good that the air-
port architect, Frederick Gibberd,
used it for making minor improve-
ments in the final plan.

action, and the intricate workings
of the safety landing devices.

One of the most dramatic flying
sequences is a talk-down of a four-
engined transatlantic airliner in
fog.

There is a 100-foot film set
representing the new south-east
passenger building with luxurious
restaurants and lounges for travel-
lers from all over the world.

"French" girl from
Cumberland

TELEVISION'S Grove Family are
so very British that it will
come almost as a shock to find a
French element in Friday's
episode. The shock will be a
pleasant one, however, in the
shape of raven-haired, green-eyed
Ann Chaplin, taking the part of a
lonely French girl named Giselle
Barraut whom Pat Grove brings
home to join the family circle.

Ann Chaplin is Cumberland-
born but tells me she went to
school in Paris. She talks French
so fluently that she is often mis-
taken for a native. Between re-
hearsals she is now studying for
her Spanish certificate and will
afterwards tackle German.

This will be Ann's first TV
appearance in Britain.

TV in industry

NEW uses have been found for
the TV camera in the British
Electrical Authority's power
station at Willington, Derbyshire.
It is being fitted as an electric eye
to guard against explosions in the
furnaces and also to keep a watch
on the boiler water-level gauge.

Until now, engineers have had
to peer through inspection ports in
the various furnaces to see
whether the jet-injected pulverised
coal is fully ignited by pilot
burners. Failure could cause a
disaster.

Quiet holiday for
John Snagge

JOHN SNAGGE tells me he will
soon slip away to the island
of Majorca for an eight weeks'
holiday.

The only trouble with Majorca,
he says, is that British tourists
have been swarming there ever
since he himself praised this
Mediterranean paradise in Holiday
Hour. However, he knows a quiet
little inn in Palma where the land-
lord has an apartment marked:
John Snagge, his Room.

Two new laughter series

Two of radio's famous funny men begin new series in TV this week.

It is Barker's night this Wednesday with the start of Look At It

This Way, in which
Eric will focus his
eyes on sport with the
help of his wife Pearl
Hackney, Cameron
Hall, and Nicholas
Parsons. Each for-
night he will spotlight
a different topic.

Arthur Askey, the
little man with the
big surprises, will be
back Before Your
Very Eyes on Friday
with comedian Wallis
Eaton as his resident
partner in this new
fortnightly series.
Friday's guest artist
will be David Nixon.



Pearl Hackney and Eric Barker

Boy oh Boy!

what

Bubbles



Bubbly

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NOTE TO PARENTS—BUBBLY contains healthful, energizing glucose and sugar
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The Children's Newspaper, February 19, 1955

ON THE ROYAL ROUTE

3. LEEWARD ISLANDS

AFTER leaving Barbados Princess Margaret is spending a few days in the Leeward Islands of Antigua and St. Kitts. They are vastly different from the West Indian islands she has already seen. Winter is still merely a word, and the same unbelievable blue sea is all around. But there are no high volcanic mountains covered with deep green forests.

The yellow-brown fields of Antigua look like harvest gold in England, and it is some time before the visitor realises that all the vegetation is completely parched.

Rain clouds sail in from the Atlantic, but the highest hill only soars 1300 feet, and too often the rain never falls.

Deep wells are being drilled and by the end of this year people should never go short of water in the house, but there simply is not enough subterranean water to irrigate the fields. So every few years, when rain is extra scarce, the sugar crops suffer.

Apart from periodic droughts the Leewards have the most delightful climate. Trinidad, Barbados, and the Windwards are steamy hot; even in winter tennis is not played till the cool of the evening. The drier heat of the Leewards is more healthy and more pleasant, and there are no

mountains to shut off the cooling Trade Winds.

Though there is no luxuriant foliage, exotic flowering trees decorate the coral-white roads, and giant sisal plants bear great clusters of yellow flowers 20 feet above your head. On the hillsides are occasional clumps of Turks Heads, topped by red blossom which attract hundreds of gaily-coloured humming birds.

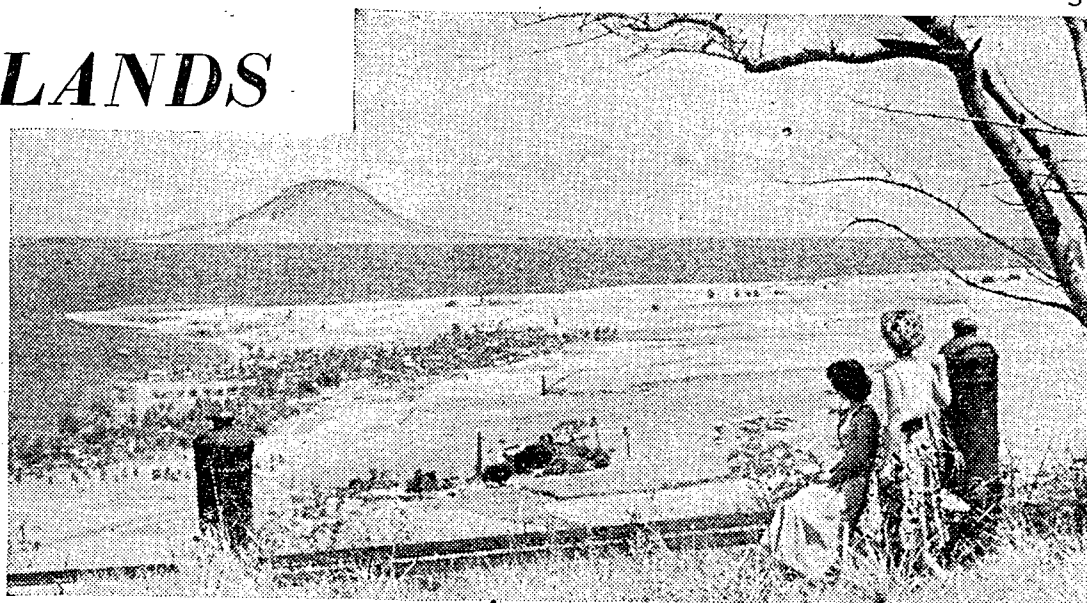
The history of the West Indies is largely one of battles between Caribs, Spaniards, French, and British. The original Carib inhabitants, though stalwart fighters, were no match for European muskets and were gradually exterminated.

In 1784 Nelson was stationed at English Harbour in Antigua, not only to keep an eye on the French but to prevent smuggling.

The Admiral's House where he lived is still there, and so is Nelson's Dockyard with its old sail lofts and great wooden capstans on the quay.

Fifty miles west of Antigua is St. Kitts, with a capital Basseterre, like an 18th-century market town.

Named after the patron Saint of Columbus, St. Christopher's became affectionately shortened to St. Kitts as far back as the 16th century. Often called the Mother



Two girls of St. Kitts look across to the Dutch island of St. Eustatius

of the West Indies, it was the first island systematically colonised.

The colony was founded in 1623 by Sir Thomas Warner, and consisted chiefly of people who, like Sir Thomas himself, came from Suffolk. Two of Sir Thomas Warner's sons became Governors of Antigua, and a third became Governor of Dominica.

Possession of this tiny island was hotly contested by the French and British throughout the 18th century, and one tale of gallantry from those unhappy far-off days is worth re-telling. In 1782 the great fortress on Brimstone Hill suffered an intense bombardment for two weeks by 8000 French under the Marquis de Bouille. Finally the small Garrison surrendered.

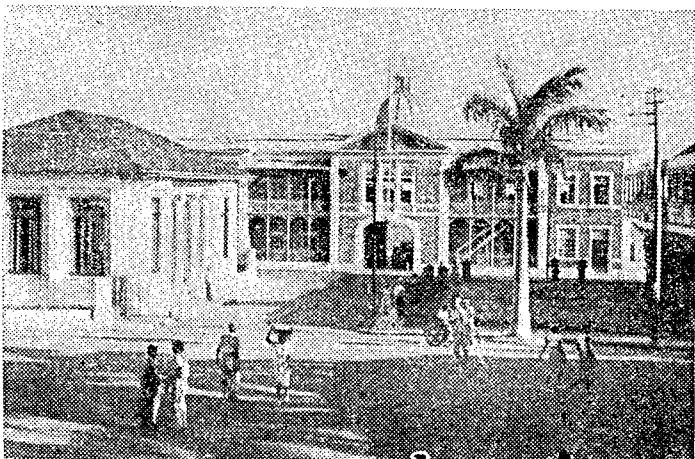
The French allowed the battered remnants of the 600 men to march out in full battle order. Then the Marquis released their General, saying: "Such a gallant gentleman as you, sir, has earned the right to fight the French again, and as often as you please."

From St. Kitts Princess Margaret will sail westward, and after two and a half days' voyage will arrive at green and fertile Jamaica, biggest and best known of all the British West Indies.

(The photographs on this page were taken by Miss Anne Bolt)



Entrance to the 18th-century courthouse at St. John's, Antigua



The main square of Basseterre, capital of St. Kitts



Two young Antiguans taking a ride among the sugar canes



Antiguan housewives at the market. The islands are famous for their fruit

Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House
Whitefriars . London . EC4
FEBRUARY 19 1955

SALUTE TO SEAMEN

CAPTAIN GEORGE SOMERWILL, famous Southampton pilot, has been "dropped" for the last time from the Queen Mary, having completed his 43rd year as pilot to the big ships coming and going in Southampton Water. His record reflects the high service which, in fair weather and foul, keeps the coasts of Britain safe for shipping.

The winter's weather has also been a stern test for the lifeboatmen all round our shores. Doing heroic jobs, sometimes at the cost of their own lives, they have added glory to a wonderful record.

We all have reason to be grateful for the quiet devotion, as well as the stirring deed which are both part of our tradition at sea.

CATS' EYES ON DOGS' NECKS

AN M.P. recently suggested that dogs should wear collars with reflector studs, so that motorists could see them at night. He pointed out that over 60,000 dogs are killed or injured on the roads every year, and that many accidents are caused by their straying after dark.

The Minister of Transport replied that he "had no powers to put cats' eyes on dogs' necks," and in support we would respectfully suggest that it would be a less expensive and more practical step if owners stopped their dogs straying on the roads at all.

The Editor's Table

MAN WITH A DOG

No one laughed more heartily than Lord Halifax told this story about him at a dinner in London.

When Sir Malcolm Hailey, as he then was, was a governor in India, he attended a procession to see how his orders about the control of the occasion were being obeyed. As it was the monsoon season he wore only shorts and shirt, and he took his dog with him.

All went quietly, but the police report on the procession stated that the only untoward incident was when the procession was joined by "a disreputable-looking European with a dog."

Peacemaker

THE cause of international friendship has lost a devoted supporter with the death of the Rev. Gwilym Davies of Aberystwyth. He was the originator of the Welsh children's annual radio peace message to the world.

He helped to promote the Welsh League of Nations Union, spending much time at Geneva. After the Second World War he was a prime mover in the establishment of Unesco.

Gwilym Davies laboured long among the peacemakers, and the torch he has laid down will be borne by others who have been inspired by him.

Thirty Years Ago

From the Children's Newspaper,
February 21, 1925

FOR weeks we have been waiting to pass on a suggestion to the London bus companies that they should put their bus numbers on the side of buses, where all the people could see them all the time, instead of on the front and the back, where only some of the people can see them some of the time.

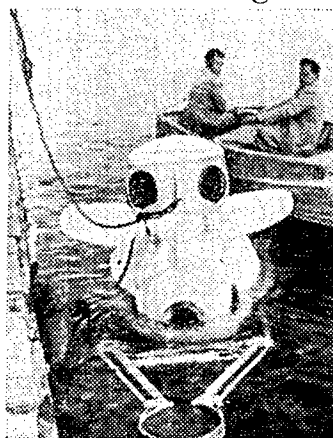
While this note lay on our desk the same idea is suggested in a letter to The Times, and we hope that so simple a way of helping the public will be speedily adopted.

Baby-sitting for exams

HARD-UP medical students in Paris are earning money by baby-sitting while studying for their examinations. This two-way service, called "Opération Bibéron" (Operation Baby's-Bottle), has been started by the General Association of Medical Students, to which parents wishing to go out for the afternoon or evening can apply.

The Association chooses responsible students, and arranges that their studies, while in charge of junior France, shall not be too absorbing.

Monster midget



This weird affair is a two-man submarine on trial at Lake Texoma in Oklahoma. It is to be used for peaceful purposes, and has claws in front for picking up objects from the sea bed.

Think on These Things

THE prophet Elijah, feeling very sorry for himself, was once tempted to complain of his lot. Then God spoke to him in the still, small voice.

Thus was this great man taught that there were many besides himself who still tried, despite all their difficulties, to do what was right and serve the true God.

Not only in great deeds do we serve God, but also in the unexciting everyday tasks; and in doing them well because we are doing them for God.

O. R. C.

THEY SAY . . .

Too many musicians have become tricksters. When they play now it is too fast. Music is judged by its horse-power.

The great violinist Fritz Kreisler

BETWEEN 80 and 85 per cent of weather forecasts are accurate.

Director of the Meteorological Office

WHEN the holidays were over, the groan-ups were glad.

Wakefield schoolgirl in an essay

THE only thing I can see about the comprehensive system is its incomprehensibility.

Former headmaster of Leeds Grammar School

WE should now proclaim our readiness to abolish war in concert with the great Powers of the world. The result would be magical.

General Douglas MacArthur

WORD QUIZ

Can you say whether a, b, or c is the correct meaning of the following five words?

1. ANTHOR

- a Branched horn of a stag
- b Words sung to sacred music
- c Part of stamen of a flower

2. EPITHET

- a Verses written on a tomb
- b Warning or mild threat
- c Adjective expressing quality

3. LINTEL

- a Material used in dressing wounds
- b Wooden surround for fire-places
- c Horizontal stone or beam over a door or window

4. RUDDLE

- a Red ochre
- b Waste pieces of brick or stone
- c Young rudd (fish)

5. NOSTRUM

- a Quack remedy
- b Platform for public speaking
- c Display of temper

Answers on page 12

Out and About

A SPELL of sun after softening rain sets more and more of the birds singing, as preparations for nesting go ahead. They are all welcome.

High above the open fields, downland, and moorland, the skylarks are now a growing choir from day to day. In more wooded country, singing even more sweetly though not so long, there is the woodlark, rather smaller than the skylark.

The woodlark sings on the wing, making a spiral flight, without rising so high as the skylark. Unlike the skylark it will also sometimes sing when perched.

That notable singer, the thrush or song thrush, is coming into voice again, and in the same walk one may hear him and his cousin, the mistle thrush, whose humbler song has persisted through the dark months.

C. D. D.

The Children's Newspaper, February 19, 1955

Next Week's Birthdays

February 20

Charles V (1500—1558). Holy Roman Emperor and Champion of the Papacy. Plunged at the age of 19 into the political and religious turmoil of Reformation Europe, he managed to hold his Empire together until, at 55, he voluntarily gave up his throne and retired to a monastery.

February 21

Group Captain Douglas Bader (1910). Air ace. He lost both legs in a flying accident in 1931, but by unrelenting determination resumed flying duties with the RAF and became one of the outstanding pilots of the Second World War. His amazing life story is told in Paul Brickhill's book, *Reach for the Sky*.



February 22

Lord Baden-Powell (1857—1941). Chief Scout. During the defence of Mafeking he organised the boys into a corps of messengers, first-aid attendants and scouts, to release men for more urgent duties. This began the Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements, now world-wide.

February 23

George Frederick Handel (1685—1759). German composer who became a naturalised Englishman. His father was determined the boy should be a lawyer, but Handel used to practise music secretly.



When he was eight the Duke of Saxony was so greatly impressed by his playing that he persuaded the father to relent. His wonderful oratorio, *The Messiah*, was written in 23 days.

February 24

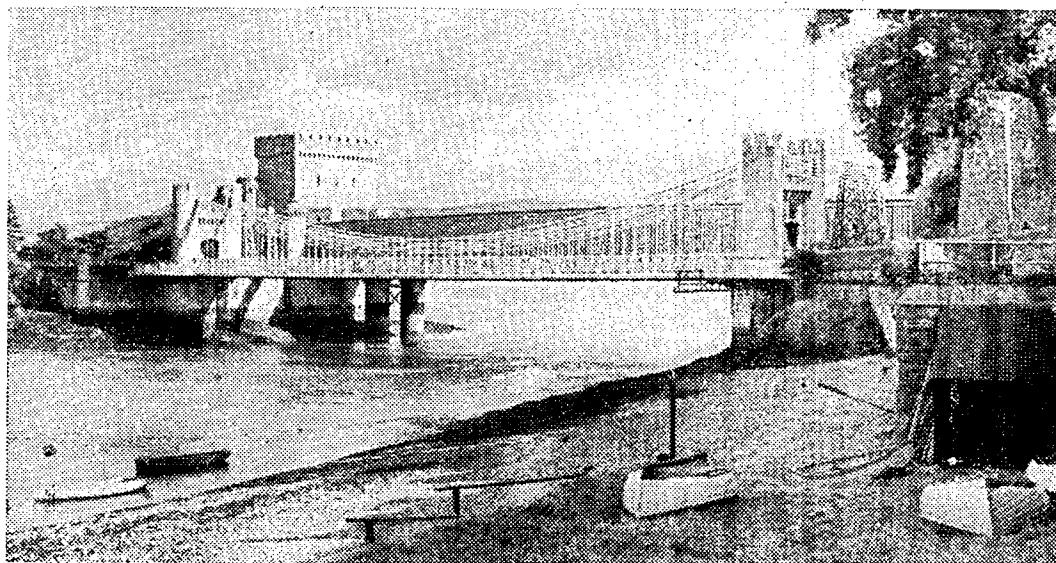
George Moore (1852—1933). Irish novelist. Planned to be a painter, but discovered he lacked the talent and had the courage to admit it. Turning to writing, his industry and artistic integrity won him recognition as a master of prose.

February 25

John Foster Dulles (1888). Secretary of State of the U.S.A. since 1953. When he can spare time from foreign affairs his recreations are "sailing, fishing, tree surgery, and ornithology."

February 26

Emile Coué (1857—1926). French physician who believed in the value of auto-suggestion in healing. His formula has become proverbial: "Every day, and in every way, I am becoming better and better."



OUR HOMELAND

The old Chester-Bangor road bridge over the River Conway

REPORT ON WILD LIFE

CENSUS OF THE SWANS

A CENSUS of swans is to be carried out this year by British bird-lovers.

Did you know that three sorts of wild swans may be seen every year in our countryside? The mute swan with a black knob at the base of its orange-coloured beak, is the common nesting bird, which you see especially on the upper Thames and at Abbotsbury, near Weymouth.

In addition we have two much wilder swans, which are chiefly winter visitors from Iceland and the north. One of these, called the whooper, from its loud call, has a large lemon-yellow patch on its beak. Another, a smaller swan with a smaller yellow patch, is called Bewick's swan after the famous Scottish bird-artist. Once a common winter visitor to many waters, it is now chiefly a passage-migrant in early Spring.



Mute swans

The biggest numbers of whoopers and Bewick's swans can be counted in winter and Spring on northern waters. Indeed, Elterwater, in Lakeland, is named from the Norse *'Elpt Vann'* or swan lake. But they visit Tamar lake in Devon, Staffordshire's Bellfields reservoir beside the A5 main road north of Birmingham, and the Eyebrook and Swithland reservoirs in Leicestershire. Other notable haunts are Malham Tarn, in Yorkshire, and Windermere lake, especially when the hill-tarns are frozen, Whaley Bridge reservoir in the Derbyshire Pennines, and Thurstonsfield Loch near Carlisle.

Holy Island and Fenham Flats, off the north Northumberland coast, are favourite wintering places for whooper swans, about 200 being the maximum in most seasons. A recent count of winter birds here included 170 mute swans and 110 whooper swans.

Most people know the large black cormorant as a common bird around rocky coasts. But it now seems to be visiting inland waters in the Midlands in ever-increasing numbers. It goes to these lakes for the fish, and stays there many weeks, roosting in the tree-tops.

Some interesting researches into the pattern of the songs of the chaffinch and other birds like the corn-bunting is being made with a "sonograph" by Dr. W. H. Thorpe at Cambridge University.

RECORDING SONGS ON PAPER

This records the song-sounds on a paper strip even when they are beyond human hearing. You may not have the opportunity to see this fascinating instrument, but you may hear some of the songs it records. The corn-buntings are already singing their squeaky little jingle of notes.

In sunnier days in February the chaffinch will begin to sing in garden and woodland trees, a loud and jolly lyric down the scale and ending with a little finale of notes. Most of these early songs are being started by cock birds which have adopted some future nesting territory and their song is a challenge to rivals to "keep out"! The scientists, however, are studying the minute local variations in chaffinch song, and how much of it is inherited, learned, or copied.

RARE CATCH

The rarest fish caught on Britain's coasts in January was a red band or red snake fish, measuring 26 inches in length, which an angler caught on a line he set between tide-marks at Dungeness Point on the Kentish coast. This large-eyed visitor from the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean is indeed an uncommon catch.

Finally a word about foxes. The Ministry of Agriculture has started an investigation into their eating habits, because, since myxomatosis destroyed the rabbits in many parts of England, the foxes have changed their diet and it is thought that they may be doing the farmer a good turn by eating many more rats. The Ministry also finds that there is little knowledge about the fox's menu in Britain, apart from its taste for poultry. E. H.

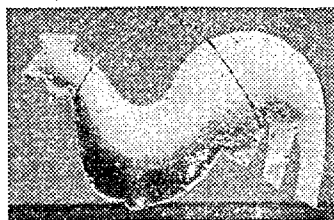
KNOW WHAT YOU SEE

3. The church weathercock

The first weathervane to be adorned with the now familiar rooster was fitted to a church in the Tirol about 1150 years ago. It symbolised Peter's denial of his Master before the twice-repeated crowing of the cock. The old English church masons then fixed one to every church they built—as a warning to other folk not to follow the betrayer's example.

As the original vanes were invariably surmounted by a cock, you find gilded chanticleers still heavily outnumbered all more recent forms. Many suffered severely in fierce gales, and latterly from air raids, and their misfortunes were made an opportunity to regild a large number. The first repairs undertaken since erection produced discoveries which surprised even the church authorities.

At St. John's Church, Walton, Cheshire, steeplejacks found the names of some of the earliest rectors and churchwardens inscribed on the steeple bird, with the dates of their appointments, an odd place for such a record. In other cases bullet marks were noted—relics, no doubt, of the marksmanship of merry musketeers



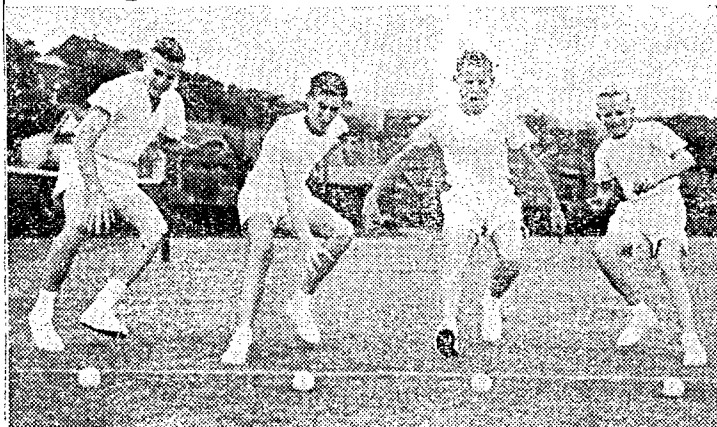
The weathercock of St. John's Church at Walton

on what, to them, must have been tempting targets.

Field-glasses levelled at the weathercock on St. Mary's, Stamford, Lincs, would reveal spikes on its back and neck. These were probably a reminder of the danger of trying to straddle the bird, a feat which was often attempted by the masons to celebrate their completion of the building.

Weathercocks vary a lot in size. Even on closer acquaintance Stamford's spiked chanticleer proves to be only two foot eight inches from tail-tip to beak. But the bird that adorns London's St. Dunstan's-in-the-East is ten feet long. M. T.

Quick on the Ball



The ball-boys at Wimbledon and other big lawn tennis tournaments are envied by many of us. They get a magnificent view of important games; they see the world's leading players at close quarters; they take part in many a drama of a tense match.

But good ball-boys are not merely retrievers. They must be alert and speedy, able to pounce on balls on the court with the minimum of interruption to the game; they must have learned to stand quite still during rallies—so as not to mar the players' concentration; and they must know the rules of the game.

In Australia ball-boys have a thorough course of training before each tournament, and these pictures show Sydney lads getting into trim under expert eyes. The top one shows four of them learning to pick up the ball on the run (this saves time and prevents heel marks on the grass which the boys would make if they turned round); and the other shows Bruce Birmingham, who was a ball-boy in the 1951 Davis Cup rounds, passing on a few tips to keen pupils.

SCHOOL BOAT-BUILDERS

Boys of the three senior classes at the Ropewalk Secondary Modern School, Knottingley, Yorks, are building a boat in the school woodwork room.

Under the supervision of their woodwork master, Mr. Eric Rhodes, they are working on a 10-foot dinghy, which they hope to launch on the River Aire at Easter. The craft is being built of oak and mahogany, for she is meant to serve many generations.

FOR ABSENT FRIENDS

Geoffrey Baynton, a keen member of Watford parish church youth fellowship, hit on the idea of enabling parishioners to hear services they are unable to attend.

With the help of friends, he wired the church with "mikes" by the pulpit, lectern and organ, and made his first experimental recording of a complete service on his tape machine. The play-back will be possible, either whole or in part, in people's homes.

CN STAMP ALBUM—A feature of interest to all young collectors (8)



THEY LOOK ALIKE BUT...

LOOK AGAIN!

SEEN TOGETHER, THE DIFFERENCE IS OBVIOUS BUT THE STAMPS ARE EASILY CONFUSED IN A BOX OF "SWOPS". THE ONE ON THE LEFT WAS ISSUED BY PAKISTAN IN 1948, BUT WHEN RE-ISSUED THE FOLLOWING YEAR THE CRESCENT POINTED THE OTHER WAY.



THIS WEEK'S ANNIVERSARY

GALILEO

WHO WAS BORN ON FEBRUARY 15, 1564

HE DIED IN 1642, AND 300 YEARS LATER, IN 1942, WAS HONOURED BY A SET OF ITALIAN STAMPS. Galileo was the first man to make and use a telescope to study the stars.



START FROM SCRATCH CEYLON WAS GRANTED DOMINION STATUS IN 1948 AND ISSUED HER FIRST STAMPS THE FOLLOWING YEAR. Since then there have been about thirty issues, including the one shown here.

? PUZZLE CORNER?



This stamp comes from: CRETE GREECE ISRAEL or ERITREA? Answer next week

Answer to last week's puzzle: HUNGARY

ABOUT TIME TOO

Thirty-five years ago a stranger walked into an inn at Marsh, Huddersfield, and asked the landlord for a piece of brown paper and string.

Having taken them into the unoccupied lounge, he reappeared shortly afterwards, carrying a parcel, and bid a cheerful good-night to the landlord and went out. When the landlord next went into the lounge he saw that the clock had gone.

The other Saturday evening a well-dressed stranger walked into the inn, deposited a parcel, and said to the present landlord: "I've brought the clock back." He then walked out and drove away in a car.

THE SAME CLOCK?

The clock is now back on the mantelpiece, ticking away as though it had never left.

That is, of course, if it be the same clock. Sceptics say that someone who had heard the story of the clock's loss has replaced it with one from a jumble sale or attic.

The landlord himself believes that the clock, a Victorian model with marble pillars and gilt lions' heads, is the very clock that was taken.

On top of the returned clock was a note, "Time once lost is never regained, but this time has returned after 35 years."

VALUABLE STAMP FOR 2d

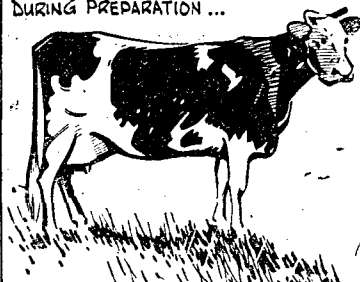
An enthusiastic stamp collector, seven-year-old Michael Napolitano, of Presteign, Radnor, bought for 2d, a 1952 two-cent Seychelles issue from a set of "approvals" sent to him by a dealer.

It is to be auctioned shortly, and experts may pay up to £40 for it.

It is valuable because the watermark contains a St. Edward's Crown—the style the Queen likes—which was used by mistake after the die broke at the paper makers.

Sporting Flashbacks

TO BUILD UP STRENGTH FOR THE UNIVERSITY BOAT RACE, THE RIVAL CREWS EAT AND DRINK HEARTILY DURING PREPARATION ...

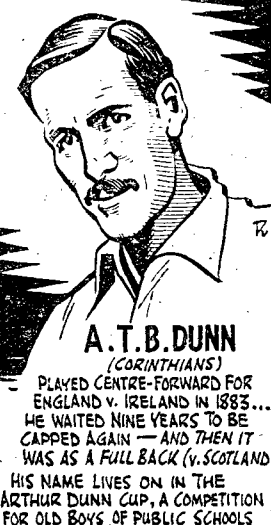


IN 1949, WHEN MILK WAS RATIONED, CAMBRIDGE MADE SURE OF A LIBERAL SUPPLY ... THEY BOUGHT A COW!

THE SUBSEQUENT RACE WAS ONE OF THE CLOSEST IN THE LONG SERIES, CAMBRIDGE WINNING IN THE LAST TEN STROKES

THE BLUE SHIRTS OF CARDIFF CITY F.C. GAINED THEM THE NICKNAME OF "THE BLUEBIRDS" LONG AGO, BUT BLUE HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN THEIR COLOUR ...

FOR THE FIRST FOUR YEARS OF THEIR EXISTENCE (1899-1903) CARDIFF—KNOWN THEN AS RIVER SIDE F.C.—PLAYED IN CHOCOLATE AND AMBER QUARTERS



A.T.B. DUNN (CORINTHIANS) PLAYED CENTRE-FORWARD FOR ENGLAND V. IRELAND IN 1883 ... HE WAITED NINE YEARS TO BE CAPPED AGAIN—AND THEN IT WAS AS A FULL BACK (V. SCOTLAND) HIS NAME LIVES ON IN THE ARTHUR DUNN CUP, A COMPETITION FOR OLD BOYS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ENGLISHWOMAN IN THE SAHARA

Some thousand miles deep in the Sahara lives a lonely Englishwoman, Dr. Dorothy Wakefield, with a great idea. A C.N. correspondent has heard through her nephew, Sir Wavell Wakefield, M.P., the news that she is well on the road to fulfilling her lifetime's ambition, the translation of the Bible into the Tuareg language.

The oasis of Tamanrasset is on the Sahara desert track between Algiers and Kano in Northern Nigeria. There Dr. Wakefield has a little three-roomed mud cottage with a tiny courtyard to which the birds come for breadcrumbs. As there are trees and water at Tamanrasset the birds are regular visitors, although often the only ones. The neighbours are a few French administrative officials, and the wild, elusive Tuareg people

who come into Tamanrasset from their wandering life in the desert.

It is for their sakes that Dr. Wakefield went to live in the Sahara. No one knows how she got into this closely guarded French territory where foreigners cannot live without special permission, but she was determined to begin the untouched job of translating the Scriptures into the tongue of the Tuareg.

WORD BY WORD

No white person could speak their language so Dr. Wakefield started to learn it, and now word by word she is translating the Scriptures. Her little study, which looks out on to her courtyard, is filled with piles of papers neatly stacked according to the books of the Bible. There is only one grammar book, and only one dictionary in Tuareg, and Dr. Wakefield shares these with the French officer who compiled them.

When she was a six-year-old girl in Dublin, Dr. Wakefield was fascinated by stories about the people of Northern Nigeria living on the edge of the Sahara. She decided then and there that she would give her life to work in Africa and became a medical missionary. After working in Nigeria

and Egypt she was eager to penetrate further into the desert and to see the Tuareg people at home. These dark-skinned, handsome, shy people whose men cover their faces with a veil, live all round the Tamanrasset oasis in ever-moving encampments.

Dr. Wakefield, who knows them so well, has all the marks of a saint, and is unafraid as she pursues her self-appointed task chapter by chapter and book by book of the Bible. Her family thinks that she will live out her life on the sand and under the sun of the Sahara because she has come to love the simple, though lonely life of the desert oasis. It is there that she has found the absorbing interest of her life and a great purpose.

WHISTLING IS HER WORK

In New York lives a woman who whistles all day and gets paid for it.

She is Mrs. Mary Lee, employed by a firm which makes boatswains' whistles for the United States Navy. Her sole job is to test each whistle with a two-second blast.

Mrs. Lee calculated recently that she had tested more than 70,000 whistles.

SWEDEN MAY KEEP RIGHT

Sweden and Britain are the only European countries where road traffic keeps to the left, and now it looks as though we may be "the last one left." For a Swedish Government Committee has recommended a change to the right-hand rule to begin on the morning of July 7, 1959. Four and a half years, it is suggested, would be time enough to make the necessary alterations to buses, street signs, and so on. The cost, it is estimated, would be about £13,000,000, which could be raised by an extra fuel tax.

MIXED RECEPTION

The Committee think the change would make international traffic easier and reduce accidents, for there is a busy and growing car-ferry service between Denmark and Sweden carrying vehicles from many parts of Europe. But the proposal has had a very mixed reception. Swedes, no doubt, like Britons, are attached to their keep-to-the-left rule, and many of them think that switching over is not worth the trouble and expense involved. There has even been a suggestion for a plebiscite.

YOU MIGHT WIN A BOOK

Who do you think is the best writer of family stories, and why?

This is one of the items in the National Book League's Children's Book Competitions. (There are prizes of two-guinea book tokens.) Another, for the 15 to 17's, is to choose a book you would like to see adapted for either radio or television, and to show how you would tackle the adaptation.

In the Illustration section, artists aged 15 to 17 are invited to design a poster for the Hans Andersen Exhibition to be held at the National Book League during April this year. Full information about the competitions can be obtained from the League at 7 Albemarle Street, Piccadilly, London W.1. The closing date is April 1

THE INVISIBLE MAN—new picture-version of H. G. Wells's scientific fantasy (5)



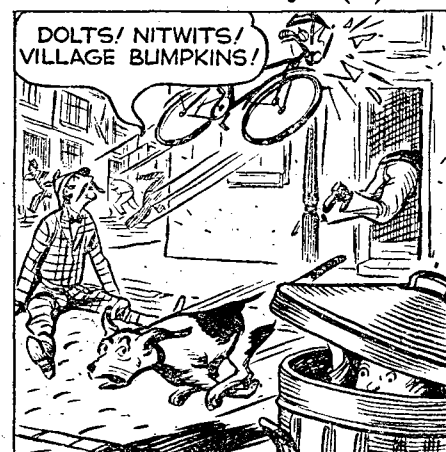
People in the inn heard a commotion in the parlour and the sound of the window there being thrown open. Then Dr. Cuss appeared with a curtain round his waist. "Don't let him get away!" yelled Dr. Cuss, "Don't let him drop that parcel! You can see him so long as he holds it!" He and Mr. Bunting did not know that the tramp, Marvel, had been lurking outside the parlour window.



But in his shop opposite the inn, Mr. Huxter had become suspicious of the loitering tramp, and when he saw him take a bundle from the inn parlour window and run off, he dashed out in pursuit. A moment later some mysterious force hit his ankle and sent him flying. At the same time a crowd came out of the inn and, seeing the tramp fleeing with the bundle, gave chase. They were soon joined by other villagers.



The pursuers began falling right and left: some were tripped by unseen feet, others were bowled over as though they had been charged at football, one or two were tackled Rugby fashion by invisible arms. Others fell over those on the ground, and soon there was a struggling heap of humanity on the road. Meanwhile, the tramp and his bundle had disappeared round the corner of the churchyard wall.



Panic seized the crowd and they dashed back to the village street. Dr. Cuss recognised the voice of the stranger yelling with rage. Evidently the mysterious scientist had completely lost his temper! Chaos was let loose: stones sprang up and broke windows, a bicycle became airborne and smashed the one lamp. The villagers scrambled for hiding places, or fled to their houses and locked doors and windows.

Has the tramp meanwhile escaped from his invisible master? See next week's instalment

Follow the fortunes of the Radio schoolboy

OUR FRIEND JENNINGS

By Anthony Buckeridge

Jennings and Darbshire recover some foreign stamps which they have thoughtlessly given away. One of these is an alleged Penny Black which blows on to the roof when Jennings shows it to Venables. Darbshire is asked to assist Jennings in retrieving this stamp but is embarrassed by being unable to remove his false moustache which he bought for the school play.

9. The Penny Red

JENNINGS was in no mood to sympathise with Darbshire's troubles.

"A fine time to start plastering whiskers all over your face, when our priceless Penny Black is stuck up there in the gutter spout!" he fumed.

"Sorry, Jen," Darbshire mumbled through his moustache. "But you told me to use rubber solution, and it's set as firm as a rock."

"Well, leave it where it is for now and go and get your butterfly net. And borrow some tweezers from Matron, because Venables says you're not supposed to touch it with your fingers."

Darbshire looked alarmed. "Aren't you? But I've been tugging at it for the last five minutes!"

"I don't mean your wretched moustache, you clodpoll. I'm talking about the Penny Black."

No permission

Darbshire departed self-consciously upon his errand, while Jennings hastened upstairs to the staff-room and knocked on the door . . . No answer.

Cautiously he turned the handle and peered in. The room was empty. This was all to the good, for if any of the masters had been present it is doubtful whether they would have allowed him to perform complicated salvage operations while balanced on the windowsill. Leaving the door ajar he

tiptoed across the room to the open window and looked out.

A few moments later Darbshire arrived, bearing his butterfly net in one hand and a pair of pliers in the other. "Here you are," he said, laying the equipment on the floor. "I didn't like to go and ask Matron for the tweezers in case she ticked me off for—well, you know." He indicated his hairy upper lip in explanation. "So I borrowed these pliers from the carpenter's shop instead. You've got permission to be in here, I suppose?"



Darbshire arrived with a butterfly net and a pair of pliers.

"No, I haven't. There was no one to ask."

"What!" All that was visible of Darbshire's face registered consternation and dismay. "But dash it all, Jen, we can't come barging in here without per. There'd be a most frantic hoo-hah if anyone found us."

"We'll have to risk it. We'll lose the stamp if we waste time looking for Mr. Carter," Jennings answered. "It'll be all right, anyway. The masters are all downstairs drinking their tea."

He turned again to the window and was just about to scramble on to the sill when his friend uttered

a sudden croak of warning. "There's someone coming along the corridor!" he hissed.

"Shut the door quietly then. They may not be coming in."

Panic seized Darbshire. Heedless of Jennings's warning he slammed the door shut with a thunderous crash. The next second it hurtled open again and Mr. Wilkins strode wrathfully into the room.

The master's gaze first came to rest upon Jennings, one foot raised towards the sill.

"What on earth are you playing at, boy?" Mr. Wilkins demanded. "And how dare you march into the staff-room without permission and slam the door in my face!"

"Sorry, sir. I did knock, but there was no answer, so I came in to—er—to make sure you were out, sir."

"Oh, did you! Well, you've no business to—!" Mr. Wilkins stopped suddenly and glanced over his shoulder. The staff-room door, which he had flung back with such force, had now swung forward again to reveal a woebegone figure hiding behind it. The figure was holding a handkerchief to the lower part of its face as though suffering from a severe cold.

Explanation

"Darbshire! I—I— There's some sort of jiggery-pokery going on in here!" Mr. Wilkins declared. He wheeled round again towards the window. "Come along now, Jennings, what is it?"

"We—er—we just came in to get a stamp, sir," Jennings explained.

"After lunch is the time to come to me for stamps," replied Mr. Wilkins, who was in charge of the school's postal arrangements. "Or you can bring the letter to me and I'll stamp it for you."

"Oh, no, we don't want to post a letter, sir."

"Then what in the name of reason do you want to buy a stamp for?"

"We don't, sir."

Mr. Wilkins clasped his hand to his brow. "But you silly little boy, you just told me you *did*!" he cried, his voice rising to a squeak of exasperation.

"No, we don't want a postage stamp, sir—or rather, we do in a way, but not an ordinary one, if you see what I mean, sir. If you'll let me explain—"

Darbshire's dilemma

But Mr. Wilkins was in no frame of mind to listen to long-winded explanations. He was about to order the boys abruptly from the room when he noticed the pliers and the butterfly net lying on the floor. "Is this your rubbish, Jennings?"

Darbshire hastened forward to claim his property, the handkerchief still held to his face.

Mr. Wilkins eyed him in surprise. "Haven't you finished blowing your nose yet, Darbshire?"

With face averted the boy bent down, meaning to pick up the objects on the floor; but in his nervous flurry he merely succeeded in dropping the handkerchief instead. He stood rooted to the spot in embarrassment.

Continued on page 11

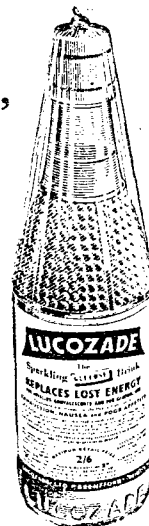


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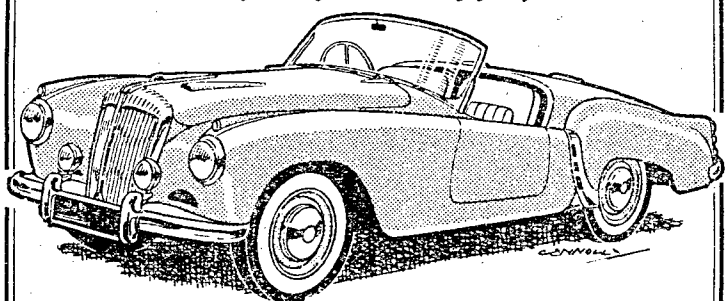
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ZOO NEWS

OLD BILL STILL SINGS OPERA AT 103

CELEBRATING his 103rd birthday this month is Old Bill, the slender-billed cockatoo. Oldest bird in the Zoo Gardens, Old Bill, a large, handsome bird with snowy plumage and a rose-tinted crest, arrived at the parrot house in 1937. Before coming there he had spent 85 years in the same household, where, apart from an extensive vocabulary, he had acquired a marked taste for grand opera.

With little provocation, Old Bill still embarks upon an accepted burlesque of the prima donna's efforts with exaggerated tremolos and gestures of his wings.

But Old Bill, though still hale and hearty, bears distinct signs of old age. One is his irascibility. He will often offer to "shake 'ands," but the visitor accepting the invitation is liable to regret it—Old Bill gives a nasty bite.

Another indication of his age is the condition of his beak, which looks at times as if it were peeling. The scales of his feet have a similar appearance.

The bird longevity record is held by a sulphur-crested cockatoo who died in 1942 at the age of 134.

THE Zoo's experiment, reported in the CN a few weeks ago, to change the habits of Napui the kiwi, is beginning to show results. You will remember that the kiwi's quarters were "blackened out" by day, and brilliantly lit at night.

At first the results were disappointing. The kiwi continued to emerge from his sleeping-box only at night.

Now at last Napui is changing his habits. He comes out during the daytime and spends much time picking earthworms from a pot. By night, he now stays in bed.

"The experiment, however, is not yet complete," said Mr. John Yealland, curator of birds. "Later, we shall begin making the kiwi's quarters gradually lighter by day, and we hope, in the end, that we shall have turned him into a daytime bird for good."

THE Society is shortly to begin another kind of experiment—the breeding of African sunbirds.

STAMP NEWS

WHEN Columbus landed on the island of Haiti in 1492 he built a fort. A sketch of it, said to have been made by the great navigator, has been used for a set of stamps issued by Haiti to raise funds for hurricane victims.

THE 50th anniversary of the international Rotary Movement is to be marked by stamps in Australia, Monaco, and the Philippine Islands. Belgium and the U.S. have already announced special stamps.

AUSTRALIA's special stamp issues last year yielded a profit of £3,911,657.

INDIA has issued a new set of pictorials to tell the world of its Five Year Plan for developing agriculture and industry.

never before achieved in this country. A large aviary is now being prepared, complete with tropical plants and the special nesting material of fibres and spiders' webs.

"Two very suitable pairs of these sunbirds were caught in the bush country of Sierra Leone recently," said Mr. Yealland. "They are a pair of yellow-bellied and a

Rarest caged bird



The London Zoo's picathartes, a very rare African bird, is believed to be the only one of its kind in captivity. Here it is in the hands of the Head Keeper of the Bird House, Mr. Alfred Woods.

pair of Kemp's olive-bellied sunbirds. Both are colourful little birds, slightly larger than the average humming-bird.

"Sunbirds do not hover at feeding-bottles, so their food will be put down for them in open pots. It is a highly specialised mixture containing a patent food, condensed milk, honey, meat extract, and fruit flies. The only problem confronting us at the moment is the provision of spiders' webs, which appear to be an integral part of the sunbird's nest."

Craven Hill

COMPETITION RESULT

The watches offered as prizes in CN Competition No. 20 have been awarded to: Susan Davies, Ledbury; Enid Hill, Guisborough; James Murray, Edinburgh; Barry Scoble, Cottingham; and Joyce Stephens, Newbury. Fountain pens go to: Jeremy Buck, King's Lynn; Brenda Green, London, N.18; Victor Hart, Carrickfergus; Barry Holland, Wallasey; Gwyneth Humphries, Barry; Noel Nicholas, Letterston; Susan Nettleton, Leeds; Norma Schafer, Liverpool; Alan Waine, Sheffield; Margaret Weatherill, Buckhurst Hill.

Answer: (Hat) Paris Modes; (Cake) Home Made; (Fish) Fresh Today; (Shoes) Extra Thick Soles; (Mushrooms) Morning Gathered; (Meat) Prime; (Eggs) New Laid; (Pullover) Hand Made.

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SPORTS SHORTS

FOR the first time in history, one of Britain's most important athletics trophies has been awarded to a Russian. This is the John Thornton Memorial Trophy, awarded annually for the best high hurdles performance in Britain. The winner is Evgenij Bulanchik, who did the 120 yards hurdles in 14.6 seconds at Manchester in October.

YET another of the many annual encounters between Oxford and Cambridge Universities will be staged next Saturday at Beckenham in Kent, when the hockey teams meet. To date the Light Blues lead with 25 victories to Oxford's 20, with nine games drawn.

THE boys of St. Albans County Grammar School are very proud of their P.T. master, for he is Bryn Meredith, the Welsh international Rugby forward. A product of St. Luke's College, Exeter, he now plays regularly for the Newport club, and is regarded as one of the finest hookers in British Rugby.

HENDON F.C., the North London Athenian League club, are always ready to welcome foreign amateur footballers visiting this country. This season their teams have included an American, a German, a Swiss, a Costa Rican, and a Norwegian. The last named is Rajnar Hvidsten, a 20-year-old forward, who has gained ten amateur international caps in his own country.

Play up, Sussex



Kathleen Tueknott, aged 20, who has played for Sussex Ladies, is coached by Sussex batsman John Langridge at the King Alfred Sports Centre, Hove.

TOM FINNEY, famous Preston North End and international winger, will spend part of the Soccer close season in Northern Rhodesia, where he has accepted a short coaching appointment.

BERNARD STIREN, the Luton Town goalkeeper, and one of the few footballers to win both amateur and full international caps, is coaching Luton school-boys. He is a fully qualified F.A. coach.

A RUNNING track is to be laid at Bath, Somerset, to commemorate Roger Bannister's first mile victory there as a pupil of the City of Bath School.

EARLY next month a combined team of Oxford and Cambridge Universities will set out for a six-week Rugby tour of British Columbia and California, during which they will play 12 matches.

ONLY two of the 16 players selected to represent South Africa in the forthcoming cricket tour of this country have not appeared in Test Matches. They are 21-year-old Chris Duckworth, the Rhodesian wicket-keeper, and 24-year-old Trevor Goddard, the Natal all-rounder. Seven of the team toured England in 1951—Jack Cheetham (captain), D. J. McGlew (vice-captain), Russell Endean, Roy McLean, Percy Mansell, Hugh Tayfield, and John Waite, while Ian Smith was here on the previous tour, in 1947.

RECENTLY the C.N. reported that South Africa claimed the world's two biggest boxers—Ewart Poigietter and Chris Lessing, who are both over seven feet tall. Now comes news that another seven-footer, Louis Booth, a tobacco farmer from Transvaal, is training for a try at the heavyweight title.

THE world figure skating championships are taking place this week in Vienna. Hanna Eigel, 15-year-old Austrian winner of the European title in Budapest last month, our own 15-year-old Yvonne Sugden, runner-up, and Scots girl Erica Batchelor, who was third, will again be in opposition, together with the 1954 champion, America's Tenley Albright.

OUR FRIEND JENNINGS (Continued from page 9)

It came as something of a shock to Mr. Wilkins to behold one of his Third Formers with a drooping black fringe attached to his upper lip. To his way of thinking it seemed not only unnecessary, but utterly lacking in reason.

"Take that ridiculous thing off your face at once!" he ordered.

"He can't, sir—it won't come," Jennings volunteered.

"Won't come! What do you mean, it won't come? It hasn't taken root, has it?"

"No, sir, but—"

"Then don't waste my time talking such absurd tomfoolery!" Mr. Wilkins retorted heatedly. "Off you go, out of this room. I don't want to see either of you again until Darbshire's face is looking less repellent, and you've both made up your minds what sort of stamp you really do want."

Stamp-collector's net

As they reached the door he called them back and pointed to the butterfly net and the pliers lying where Darbshire had left them.

"And take all this clutter with you! What's the idea of littering the staff-room ankle deep with rubbish of this kind?"

Jennings retrieved the stamp-salvaging equipment. "Well, sir, if we'd been able to get the stamp we came in for, I was going to use these to pick it up with, sir."

"Pick it up with pliers! You must be off your head. You'll be telling me next that you wanted the butterfly net to catch it with!"

"Yes, that's quite right, sir. You see—"

But one glance at Mr. Wilkins' face was enough to show that this was not a good moment to continue the explanation.

"Come along, Darbi, we won't bother Mr. Wilkins any longer," Jennings said, propelling his friend out on to the landing and closing the door firmly upon the master's expostulations.

New plans

There was still a little time left before the end of break, and Jennings was eager to press on with new plans for recovering the stamp. Not so Darbshire, who scuttled off to the dispensary where Matron was put to a great deal of trouble in removing the facial disguise with surgical spirit.

Fortunately for Jennings, Venables was willing to take a hand in the venture. From the observations which he had made on the quad, Venables was convinced that the stamp could be reached equally well from the window of classroom 2, which was situated next door to the staff-room.

"Come on then, let's go and try," Jennings agreed. And a few minutes later he was standing out-

side on the classroom window sill, groping in the gutter above his head.

"Any luck?" queried Venables, leaning over the sill and keeping a firm grasp on Jennings' ankles.

"No, not yet. This gutter's full of water and stuff, and it keeps trickling up my sleeve."

"Never mind that—it's the stamp that matters! It's not doing it any good lying in a puddle of water, you know."

Jennings groped once more, but he was hampered by being unable to see what he was doing. And then, quite by chance, his fingers brushed against a sodden scrap of paper.

"Hurray! Wacko! I've got it!" he shouted in triumph.

"Let's hope it's all right," said Venables, as his friend scrambled back into the classroom.

Change of colour

The stamp was lying face downwards on Jennings' palm. Carefully he turned it over to make sure that it had sustained no damage. At once a look of horrified amazement spread across his features.

"Heavens!" he gasped. "What on earth has gone wrong!"

There was some reason for his concern. The stamp was no longer black, but red!

To be continued

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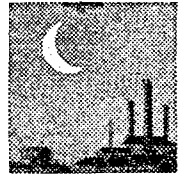
THE BRAN TUB

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"How does one tell an old fowl from a young one?"
 "By the teeth."
 "Don't be silly. Fowls haven't got teeth."
 "No, but I have."

OTHER WORLDS

IN the evening Jupiter is in the south-east and Mars is low in the south-west. In the morning Mercury is low in the east. Venus is in the south-east, and Saturn is in the south. The picture shows the Moon as it will appear at eight o'clock on Friday morning, February 18.



WHAT . . .

. . . dog is one-sixth of a gallon, three-fifths of a quire, half of a dram, plus half of a pole?

Alfred

Let's play doctors and nurses

Little Ann Childs of Catford, in South-east London, takes her games seriously, and we can be quite sure that Dolly is in safe hands.



SIMPLE DEDUCTION

FROM what English town of nine letters can you take away four and leave seven?

Sevenoaks

SPOT THE . . .

GREY SQUIRREL as he sits in the branches overhead, watching you with impudent eyes. His body is about 12 inches long and the magnificent bushy tail measures another nine.



Though very pretty, these creatures are destructive. They wreak havoc with buds, shoots, bulbs, roots, fruit, the bark of young trees, and birds' eggs.

Our English red squirrel is not entirely harmless, but his crimes in no way compare with those of the grey rascal.

Grey squirrels came originally from North America, where the forests contain many natural enemies, including the fierce fishers and martens. In England they go practically unmolested, and in consequence multiply rapidly.

JACKO LOSES THE TOSS TO BOUNCER



BREEDING WORMS

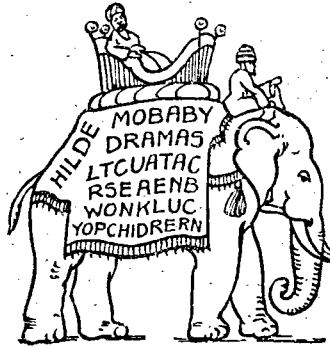
THE common earthworm is being bred at the New York Zoo to ensure a constant supply for its worm-eating charges.

The worm eggs—so small that 200 of them will only fill a teaspoon—hatch out in about a month. The baby worms are turned out of their boxes into a bed of moist earth and fed on leaves, bean and pea pods, and other garbage.

PICTURE PUZZLE

THESE jumbled up words can be rearranged to make names of towns in India. What are they?

Answer in column 5



LONGEST WORD

IN a recent number the CN gave smiles as the longest word because there is a mile between the first and last letters. But, as some young readers point out, beleaguered is even longer, because there is a league (about three miles) between be and red.

TASTY DISH

My first is in camping but not in tent;
 My second's in Hampshire but not in Kent;
 My third is in window but not in door;
 My fourth is in rich but not in poor;
 My fifth is in cats but not in mice;
 My sixth is in skating but not in ice;
 My seventh's in extra and also in more;
 My last is in sea and also in shore.
 My whole is a treat we expect every year
 On one certain day which already draws near.

Answer in column 5

ALPHABET PUZZLE

The answers to the following clues all begin with the letter S.

CRIME of breaking into a church
 Used on ships before the steam age
 Dogs known for their heroism
 Something saved
 First King of Israel

Answer in column 5

BEDTIME TALE

BILLY SOLVES THE PUZZLE

FOR once there was silence in the house. Billy was busy doing a children's crossword puzzle in the newspaper and Mummy and Daddy were reading.

Then Billy looked up. "Mummy," he said, "what's a four-legged animal with three letters?"

"Cow, cat, dog, pig," said Mummy with a smile. Billy returned to his puzzle.

A few minutes later he looked up again. "Mummy, what's a six-letter word meaning opportunity?"

Mummy thought for a moment. "Chance," she said.

Hardly had he written down the word than he was asking another question.

"Mummy, what's an eight-letter word meaning lazy?"

"Who's doing this puzzle?" broke in Daddy. "You or Mummy? Indolent is the answer."

Billy carefully wrote down the answer then looked up with a satisfied smile. "That's finished it," he said.

A few minutes later there was a knock on the door and Billy's friend Paul came in.

"Did you do the crossword puzzle, Billy?" he asked.

"Oh, yes," said Billy. "I thought it was quite easy this week!"

And Paul still does not understand why Billy's mother and father burst out laughing.

UP TO THE MARK

WHEN we are not feeling so well, we say that we are not quite "up to the mark."

This expression is derived from the standard of values for precision metals. The Assay Office fixed a standard for gold and silver articles known as the Mark.

Thus, a thing which does not come up to this mark is not as good as it should be.

LINES ON WAVES

THERE was a young lady called Tilly,

Who said: "I think straight lines are silly."

I've frills on my dresses,
 And waves in my tresses,
 And live in a village that's hilly."

PARADOXICAL

"STRANGE, isn't it," mused a furnishing shop assistant, "that carpets are bought by the yard yet worn by the foot."

Crossword Puzzle

READING ACROSS. 1 Songs. 5 Night bird. 8 Make an offer. 9 Weird. 11 —, Vegetable, or Mineral? 13 George Medal. 14 Sullied. 16 Edges. 17 Conceited. 19 Cuts. 21 North-east. 23 Give pain. 25 Do not let this grow under your feet. 27 Poetic ever. 28 Consume. 29 Taut.

READING DOWN. 1 Amateur Boxing Association. 2 Wash. 3 Characters of a language. 4 Amphibious mammal. 5 Alternative. 6 False hair. 7 Fruit. 10 A cricket team. 12 Greedy people. 15 Blacken. 16 Movable joint. 18 They are surrounded by water. 20 Huge. 22 Age. 24 Before. 26 Position.

Answer next week

IRISH

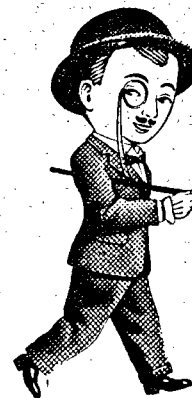
THERE was once an Irish servant girl who, on being told to boil five eggs for three minutes each, boiled them altogether for a quarter of an hour.

ANSWERS TO WORD QUIZ

1c, 2c, 3c, 4a, 5a

BRAN TUB ANSWERS

Alphabet puzzle. Sacrilege, sails, St. Bernard, salvage, Saul.
 Picture puzzle. Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Benares, Lucknow, Pondicherry.
 Tasty dish. Pancakes



Find the Treasure



"Hullo there! Here I am again—your old friend Sir Kreemy Knut, with another puzzle for you to have fun with.

A maze this time: start where you see me, and try to find your way to the treasure. If you come to any line across your path, you'll have to retrace your steps and try again. What will you find at the end? A lovely Sharps Toffee! What could be more delicious than that?"



the word for Toffee

EDWARD SHARP & SONS LIMITED
 "The Toffee Specialists" MAIDSTONE, KENT

